

Development Path of Private Higher Education in Shaanxi Province under the Background of "The Belt and Road"

Pan Jun^a, Kong Ying^b

Xi'an International University, Xi'an, China

^a715072962@qq.com, ^b378701103@qq.com

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Abstract: "The Belt and Road" has offered a new strategic choice for the development of private higher education in Shaanxi Province (China). Under the background of "The Belt and Road", this work first analyzed the development origin of Shaanxi and the current situation and development of private higher education, then systematically expounded the opportunities and challenges faced by private higher education entering the new era of development under the background of "The Belt and Road", especially in the era of national coordinated promotion of high-level universities, the multiple and simultaneous development of application-oriented transformation and development. Finally, it put forward the strategic path and task measures for integrating Shaanxi private colleges and universities into "The Belt and Road", and the research results will provide some corresponding guidance for the development of Shaanxi private higher education.

1. The Origin of "The Belt and Road" in Shaanxi

Shaanxi, internally, links the eastern coastal areas and the western region; externally, connects the Central Asian region. More than 2000 years ago, Shaanxi was the hub of world trade, the gateway to the outside world and the gathering place of production factors. In the Han Dynasty, Zhang Qian set out from Chang'an to open the ancient Silk Road across Asia and Europe. Shaanxi is an important fulcrum of the Eurasian Continental Bridge, since a number of railways, highways, and routes meet here, and it has advantages in location, science and education, energy, culture and military industry. The "Belt and Road" is a rare historical opportunity given by the times for Shaanxi to open up and develop, and it is also the best "draught" for Shaanxi to build a modern economic system and achieve high-quality development. Over the past few years, from building a new starting point of The Silk Road Economic Belt to building the core area of "The Belt and Road", and from building a new highland of inland reform and opening up to building the five major centers of "The Belt and Road", Shaanxi is taking the "three economies" as the guide to vigorously promote the unique human, historical, cultural, educational, scientific and technological and industrial characteristics of the superior enterprises and superior production capacity "going global" and "bringing in" to promote the rapid economic development of the region.

2. Development Status of Private Higher Education in Shaanxi

2.1. Development status of private higher education in Shaanxi

The private higher education in Shaanxi develops rapidly, and it is in the leading position in the China. According to the 2018 Statistics and Bulletin on education development of Shaanxi Province, by the end of 2018, there were 19 private institutions of higher education, 225 graduate students, 197,338 undergraduate students, and 12 independent colleges with 74,635 students. There are 9 private undergraduate universities approved by the Ministry of Education in Shaanxi, accounting for 7.4% of private undergraduate universities in China; there are 7 private undergraduate universities approved by the Ministry of Education and the provincial government in Shaanxi, accounting for 2.3% of private vocational colleges in China; there are 2 higher vocational education of undergraduate course approved by the Ministry of Education and the provincial government in

Shaanxi, accounting for 13% of higher vocational education of undergraduate course in China; there are 12 provincial independent colleges, accounting for 4.2% of independent colleges in China. Among them, the number of undergraduate colleges, private colleges and universities with more than 10,000 people, students in school and other indicators are among the highest in China. The number of schools of more than 10,000 people has reached 14 (of which 5 are independent colleges), and 19(including 12 independent colleges) have the right to confer bachelor's degrees.

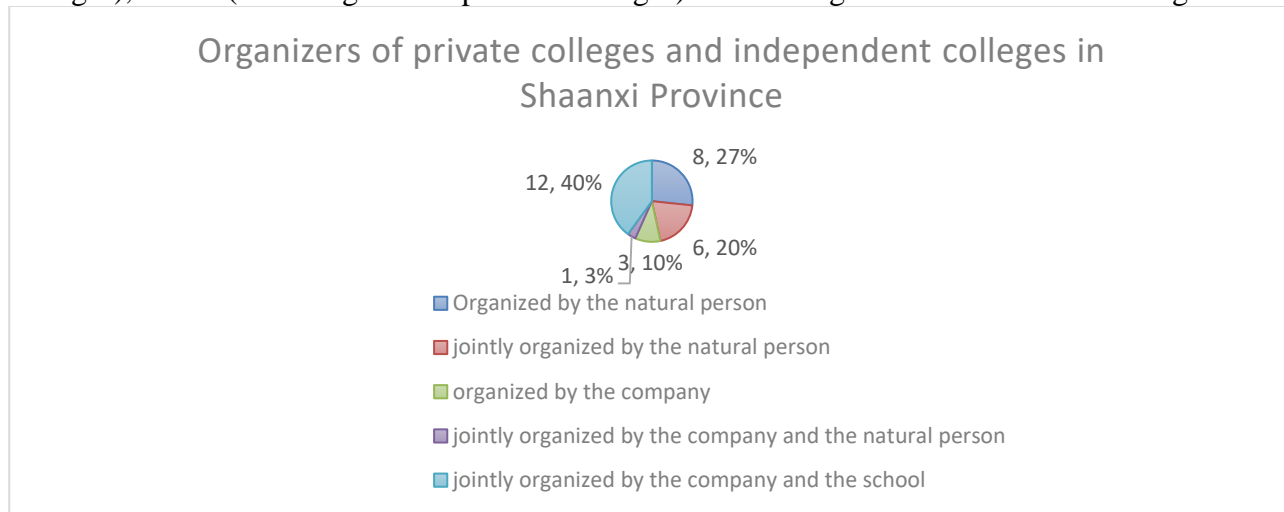


Fig. 1. Information of the organizer

Note: Private colleges and independent colleges in Shaanxi Province have different types due to different development situations and different sources of funds. In the future, they will have different choices for for-profit and non-profit.

2.2. Situation of teaching staff

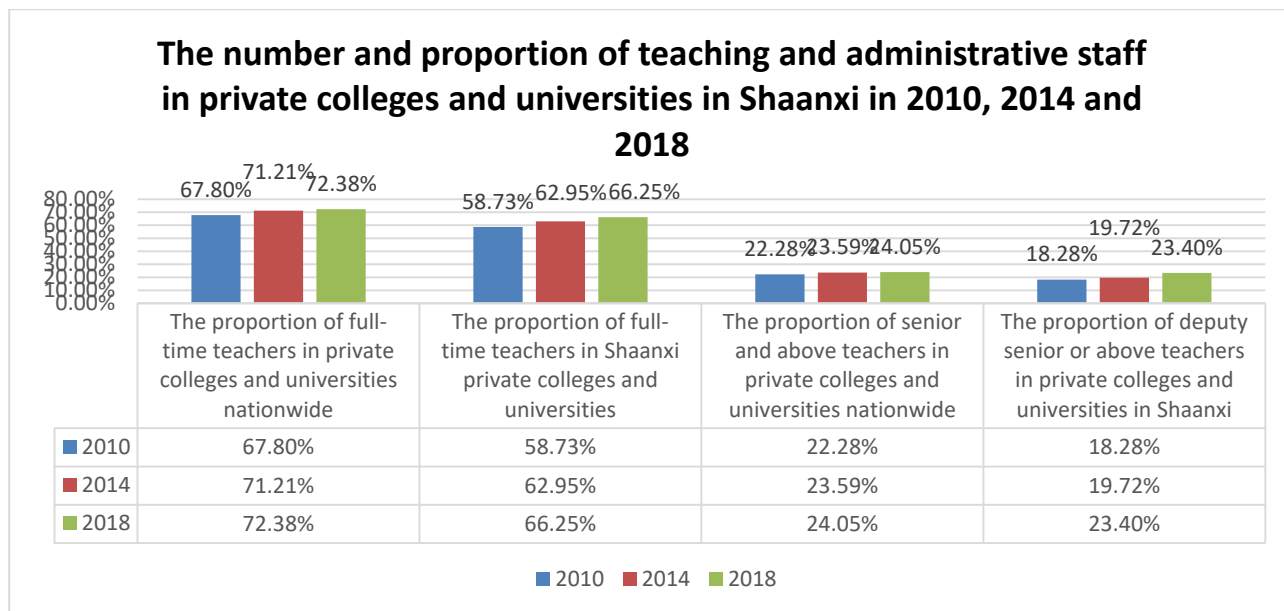
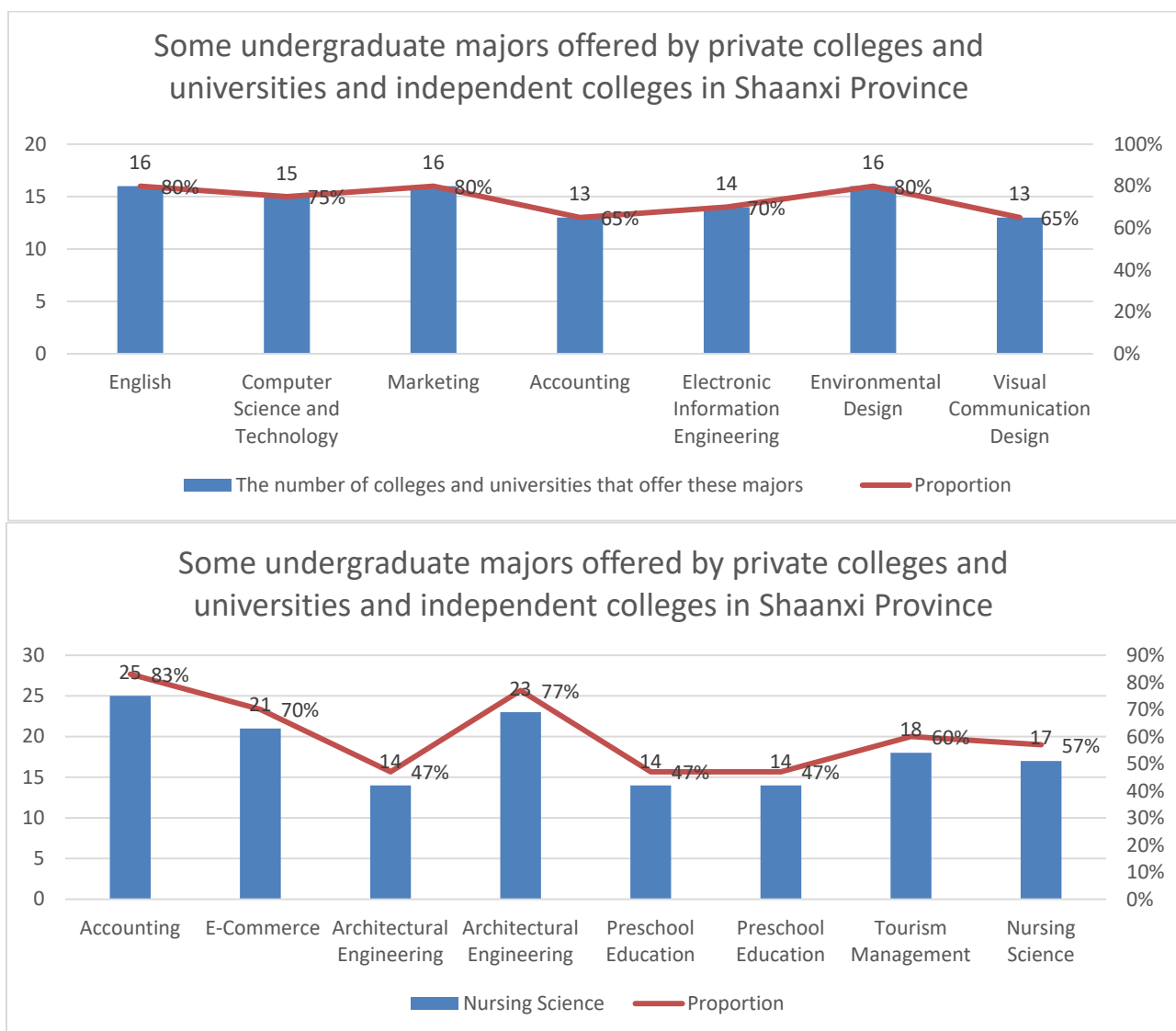


Fig. 2. Number and proportion of teaching staff in private colleges and universities in Shaanxi in 2010, 2014, and 2018.

From 2010 to 2018, the total number of teaching staff in private colleges and universities increased by 88,131, with a growth rate of 25.27%; the total number of full-time teachers increased by 79,800, and the proportion increased to 72.38% and the growth rate was 33.76%; the number of full-time teachers with titles above junior and senior high increased by 27,386, and the proportion increased to 24.05% and the growth rate was 35.26%. During the same period, the total number of faculty and staff in private colleges and universities in the province decreased by 956 (mainly

administrative, teaching aid and workers), with a growth rate of -4.19%; the number of full-time teachers increased by 1,082, and the proportion increased to 66.25% and the growth rate was 8.07%; the number of full-time teachers with titles above secondary and secondary senior high increased by 946, and the proportion increased to 23.40% and the growth rate was 22.67%. As can be seen from the figure above, the growth of the number of teaching and administrative staff in private colleges and universities in the province still lags behind the national growth level, and the construction of the teaching staff ranks below the national level. The number of secondary professional teachers and the number of teachers with professional titles above the deputy high level are expanding year by year, and the gap between them and private colleges and universities in China is gradually narrowing. At the same time, the data analysis of this questionnaire shows that the Kendall coefficient is 0.193, so there is a weak correlation. There is a correlation between the sense of belonging to a career and the turnover rate of teachers. The higher the sense of belonging to a career, the lower the turnover rate.

2.3. Situation of majors



Data sources: Statistics of local education data

Fig. 3. Some undergraduate majors offered by private colleges and universities and independent colleges in Shaanxi Province

As shown in the figure, characteristics in the major setting of private colleges and universities are as following. First, in the nearly 30 years of the development course of private colleges and universities, the number of colleges and universities offering humanities, economics and

management foreign language majors such as English, marketing and accounting still exceeds more than 65%, and the number of colleges and universities offering accounting, e-commerce, logistics management, tourism management, computer science and technology is more than 60% of all private colleges and universities. Therefore, the majors that have low costs and less expenses take a large proportion. Second, the phenomenon of homogeneity is obvious. Among provincial undergraduate colleges and universities, there are more than 30 majors in the same major, namely, 7 majors with serious homogenization, including English, computer science and technology, marketing, accounting, electronic information engineering, environmental design, and visual communication design. The number of private undergraduate colleges and universities with these seven majors is 13, accounting for more than 65%; accounting, e-commerce, language, and construction engineering technology are the major with more than 30 professional distribution points in higher vocational schools in the province. The number of private higher vocational schools offering these majors is 14, accounting for 47% to 83%.

3. Private Higher Education has Entered a New Era of Development Under "The Belt and Road"

The introduction of institutional documents on private education, such as Opinions on Encouraging Social Forces to Set up Education to Promote the Healthy Development of Private Education and its supporting documents, has marked a major change in the basic system design of private education in China and a new era in the development of private education in China.

3.1. Quality construction of private colleges and universities has become an important direction of the public policy

The development of higher education will eventually be restricted by economic conditions. From the practice of running colleges and universities, in the early stage of the large expansion of enrollment in higher education, the conditions and resources brought by various factors are seriously tight, and the expansion of scale objectively dilutes the resources of running a school, which affects the connotation construction and internal management quality of the school. In view of this development situation, the government put forward the goal of improving the quality of higher education and building a powerful country by developing higher education based on the long-term development of China. The development of higher education in China has changed from scale expansion to quality improvement, and from extension development to connotation construction, especially in the development environment of "first-class" and "internationalization", the whole national higher education system has changed from "four beams and eight columns" to "interior decoration". Under the background of comprehensively improving the quality of running schools, the development of private colleges and universities also needs to be closely guided by national policies. Therefore, in this period, with the maturity and perfection of the running environment of private colleges and universities, the quality construction of private colleges and universities will become the mainstream, and the construction of high-quality and high-level private colleges and universities will become an important direction of national policy.

3.2. Private schools will move from one-way management to joint governance

As an important part of superstructure, higher education is carrying out the spirit of "promoting the modernization of national governance system and governance ability". It will deepen reform and transform from management to governance. The reality requires the transformation of higher education from management to governance, and promotes the modernization of the governance system and governance ability of modern higher education with Chinese characteristics. It emphasizes the change from micro management to macro management, from direct management to indirect management, from running education to managing education, and from management to service. Due to its unique organization system, private colleges and universities have more complex subjects involved in governance, which requires the government and private colleges and universities to jointly complete the construction of governance system.

4. The Strategic Conception of "The Belt and Road" is Integrated into Shaanxi Private Colleges and Universities

Applied talent demand overflow: private colleges and universities can better meet the needs of employers for applied talents. Combining with the geographical environment of the private colleges and universities, it is necessary to make clear the orientation of running schools, change the development path of "survival and development oriented" to "distinctive development promoting sustainability", and then find the characteristic development road suitable for the private colleges and universities. In terms of majors and curriculum setting, the school should combine its own characteristics, deepen the connotation of cultivation, explore the mode of talent cultivation, study new teaching methods and means, improve the quality of talent cultivation, and pay attention to the characteristic cultivation mode to avoid homogenization.

4.1. Objective construction

As the global economy enters the 4.0 era and the popularization and application of information technology in 5G, talent training has also entered into a new era. The economic and social development along "The Belt and Road" area needs more and more new talents of diversified, intelligent and knowledge-based, and at the same time, it also poses a higher challenge to talent training. Centering on the development strategic positioning of "The Belt and Road", the historical mission of serving local economic and social development should be earnestly implemented. Especially the private higher education in Shaanxi province, and the culture at home and abroad applied technical skills talents of school-running orientation, personnel training goal setting, major setting, curriculum construction, intellectual support, scientific research, cultural exchange should be planned systematically, so as to give full play to the high-level superior resources of Shaanxi colleges and universities to make up for or help their own development and construction.

4.2. Path analysis

Shaanxi is a big as well as strong province of higher education. The benign development of higher education can not be separated from the support of complex social system. In the era of national coordinated promotion of high-level colleges and universities and the simultaneous development of application-oriented transformation and development, simplification or imitation of the development path of traditional colleges and universities is no longer suitable for the current practical needs of diversified and export-oriented development. Therefore, it is necessary to grasp the core content and main framework of "The Belt and Road", and set up a diversified and characteristic development path featuring policy support, inter-school communication, distinctive features and coordinated development, which is an inevitable choice to integrate into the development of "The Belt and Road".

It is necessary to carry out the development of regional characteristics of colleges and universities, strengthen the differentiated strength of private colleges and universities, innovate the governance system and mechanism of colleges and universities, and improve the governance level of modern colleges and universities. Additionally, it is also necessary to construct a diversified and international joint training mechanism, and innovate the training mode of applied talents. First, it is necessary to determine the development strategy and focus on construction. Focusing on the strategic key construction contents of "trade, finance, transportation, infrastructure, culture and tourism" in "The Belt and Road", the professional structure, curriculum system and training mode can be adjusted, and the talent training system can be constructed to meet the needs of "The Belt and Road" from the aspects of professional construction, curriculum system structure and training mode exploration, so as to train the applied and comprehensive people needed by the society. Second, it is necessary to change the concept of education and actively carry out internationalization. For example, it can set up "cultural exchange, financial circulation, technology development, trade and transportation, tourism development" and other personnel training professional groups; it can also promote the innovation of international talent training mode, and build a multi-subject collaborative talent training mechanism. Third, according to the special needs

for "The Belt and Road" construction talents, targeted training is necessary. Fourth, it is necessary to give full play to and tap the advantages of regional cultural resources in the province, and combine the orientation of school development, so as to strengthen the intensity of cultural radiation, and promote the expansion of the functions of talent training, scientific research, social service and cultural guidance in colleges and universities in the province.

5. Task Measures

5.1. Clarify strategic objectives and path choices of sustainable development

Ma Wenpu, the former deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Liaison of the CPC Central Committee, believes that in order to better implement the "Belt and Road" initiative, it is necessary to vigorously train specialized international talents and adopt a strategy of equal emphasis on scientific and technological talents and managerial talents. The definition of the connotation of international talents in domestic colleges and universities contains many elements, including knowledge reserve, professional level, practical ability, innovation ability, and social responsibility. It also emphasizes the characteristics of "international vision" or "cross-cultural communication ability" which should be adapted to the open development of national society.

5.2. Establish a modern private governance system that embodies Chinese characteristics and connects with the international community

Combining with the development of private education in Shaanxi Province, it is necessary to constantly adjust the development policy of private higher education, and establish and perfect the relevant laws and regulations of private education and the mechanism of government regulations and policies. The process of local legislation should be sped up, and private colleges and universities should be guided to carry out rational classification selection, so as to promote the reform of non-profit and profit-making classification in private colleges and universities in the province. On this basis, it is necessary to speed up the reform of the internal management system of private colleges and universities according to law, complete the rules of colleges and universities, improve the governance of legal persons, and actively explore the governance path and system in line with the actual development of private higher education. The establishment of "decision-making of board of directors, President's responsibility, political core of Party committee, supervision and guarantee, professorial administration, democratic management, and school administration by law" can reflect Chinese characteristics, connect with international standards, and conform to the modern private university system of Shaanxi private colleges and universities.

6. Summary

The number of schools, enrollment, students, graduates and full-time teachers have reached about 22% to 25% of the corresponding national target, which has become an important part of China's higher education. The internationalization process of education provides an opportunity for the development of higher education in the popularization stage, which can better meet the people's diversified demands for high-quality higher education resources and avoid the shortage of students in the later stage of the popularization in high-income countries. Additionally, it is necessary to make full use of the development opportunity of "The Belt and Road" to attract a large number of high-quality educational resources abroad and implement international cooperation and development. Therefore, in the aspects of professional setting, curriculum system, teachers' team, management level, quality evaluation and teaching mode, it is necessary to strengthen the sharing and co-construction of international school running resources, expand the ability level of communication between teachers and students, expand the school running space and improve the school running quality and level.

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